



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/783,200	02/19/2004	Mitsuaki Moritani	088485-0244	6172
23392 7590 01/22/2007 FOLEY & LARDNER 2029 CENTURY PARK EAST SUITE 3500 LOS ANGELES, CA 90067			EXAMINER LU, KUEN S	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2167	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		01/22/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/783,200	Applicant(s) MORITANI ET AL.	
	Examiner Kuen S. Lu	Art Unit 2167	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11/3/2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Action is responsive to Applicant's Amendment file November 3, 2006.

Applicant's amendment made to claims 1, 5, 14 and 21-22 is acknowledged and

Examiner's objection to claim 14 is hereby withdrawn.

2. As to Applicant's Arguments/Remarks filed November 3, 2006, please see

Examiner's response in "**Response to Arguments**", following this Office Action for

Final Rejection (hereafter "the Action"), shown next. Please note claims 1-22 are

pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

3.1. Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Yamauchi et al. (U.S. Patent Application 2003/0154390, hereafter "Yamauchi") in view

of Tayebi et al. (U.S. Patent Application 2003/0163724, hereafter "Tayebi").

As per claim 1, Yamauchi teaches "A content information management apparatus" (See Fig. 3 and Page 6, [0087] where a content distribution system is described) comprising:

"a collection processing unit which collects content information items indicating attributes of contents stored in different specific forms in storage devices connected to networks" (See Fig. 3 and Pages 4-6 wherein [0066] and [0068] shows storing section stores content, and content is converted and stored into another format and wherein [0071] content recording management section identifies content types and transmits content to the network-connected terminal devices where the content should be stored).

Yamauchi does not explicitly teach that the storage devices connected to networks "using different protocols".

However, Tayebi teaches storage devices connected together in accordance with known network protocols (See Page 9, [0122]).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention was made to combine the teaching of Tayebi with Yamauchi reference by storing content on storage devices based on network protocols because both references are directed to content distribution where Yamauchi utilizes different networks for user, content distribution and content management wherein network types are different and device must store pre-determined content while Tayebi teaches devices connected to network in accordance with network protocols for effectively distribution of content on a secure, reliable and trustworthy network link, and the combined teaching of the references would have enabled Yamauchi's system to

increase transmission capability on a more secure, reliable and trustworthy network link (See BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION of the references).

The combined teaching of the Tayebi and Yamauchi references further teaches the following:

“a conversion processing unit which converts each of the content information items collected by the collection processing unit into content information of a standardized form” (See Yamauchi: Page 5, [0068] where content is converted from one format to another for storage); and

“an output unit which outputs the content information of the standardized form converted by the conversion processing unit” (See Yamauchi: Pages 6-7, [0068] and [0089] where MPEG 2 format is converted into MPEG4 format and both content formats are for displaying on television output device and the content receiving section receives contents and monitors content on monitor screen).

As per claim 21, Yamauchi teaches “A content information management apparatus” (See Fig. 3 and Page 6, [0087] where a content distribution system is described) comprising:

“collection processing means for collecting content information items indicating attributes of contents stored in different specific forms in storage devices connected to networks” (See Fig. 3 and Pages 4-6 wherein [0066] shows content storing section stores content and wherein [0071] content recording management section identifies

content types and transmits content to the network-connected terminal devices where the content should be stored).

Yamauchi does not explicitly teach that the storage devices connected to networks "using different protocols".

However, Tayebi teaches storage devices connected together in accordance with known network protocols (See Page 9, [0122]).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention was made to combine the teaching of Tayebi with Yamauchi reference by storing content on storage devices based on network protocols because both references are directed to content distribution where Yamauchi utilizes different networks for user, content distribution and content management wherein network types are different and device must store pre-determined content while Tayebi teaches devices connected to network in accordance with network protocols for effectively distribution of content on a secure, reliable and trustworthy network link, and the combined teaching of the references would have enabled Yamauchi's system to increase transmission capability on a more secure, reliable and trustworthy network link (See BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION of the references).

The combined teaching of the Tayebi and Yamauchi references further teaches the following:

"conversion processing means for converting each of the content information items collected by the collection processing means into content information of a standardized

form" (See Yamauchi: Page 5, [0068] where content is converted from one format to another for storage); and

"means for outputting the content information of the standardized form converted by the conversion processing means" (See Yamauchi: Pages 5-7, [0068] and [0089] where content of MPEG 2 format is converted into MPEG4 format and both content formats are for displaying on television output device and the content receiving section receives contents and monitors content on monitor screen).

As per claim 22, Yamauchi teaches "A content information management apparatus" (See Fig. 3 and Page 6, [0087] where a content distribution system is described) comprising:

"a data processing unit operative under program control for:

(1) collecting content information items indicating attributes of contents stored in different specific forms in storage devices connected to networks" (See Fig. 3 and Pages 4-6 wherein [0066] shows content storing section stores content and wherein [0071] content recording management section identifies content types and transmits content to the network-connected terminal devices where the content should be stored).

Yamauchi does not explicitly teach that the storage devices connected to networks "using different protocols".

However, Tayebi teaches storage devices connected together in accordance with known network protocols (See Page 9, [0122]).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention was made to combine the teaching of Tayebi with Yamauchi reference by storing content on storage devices based on network protocols because both references are directed to content distribution where Yamauchi utilizes different networks for user, content distribution and content management wherein network types are different and device must store pre-determined content while Tayebi teaches devices connected to network in accordance with network protocols for effectively distribution of content on a secure, reliable and trustworthy network link, and the combined teaching of the references would have enabled Yamauchi's system to increase transmission capability on a more secure, reliable and trustworthy network link (See BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION of the references).

The combined teaching of the Tayebi and Yamauchi references further teaches the following:

"(2) converting each of the content information items collected by the collection processing unit into content information of a standardized form" (See Yamauchi: Page 5, [0068] where content is converted from one format to another for storage); and "outputting the converted content information of the standardized form" (See Yamauchi: Pages 5-7, [0068] and [0089] where content of MPEG 2 format is converted into MPEG4 format and both content formats are for displaying on television output device and the content receiving section receives contents and monitors content on monitor screen).

As per claim 5, Yamauchi teaches "A content information management method" (See Fig. 3 and Page 6, [0084] where a method for content recording, distribution and storage is described) comprising:

"collecting a content information item indicating an attribute of content stored in a first form in a first storage device connected to a network" and "a content information item indicating an attribute of content stored in a second form in a second storage device connected to a network" (See Fig. 3 and Pages 4-6 wherein [0066] shows content storing section stores content and wherein [0071] content recording management section identifies content types and transmits content to the network-connected terminal devices where the content should be stored).

Yamauchi does not explicitly teach that content stored in first storage device "using a first protocol" and content item stored in second form "indicating an attribute of second protocol".

However, Tayebi teaches storage devices connected together in accordance with known network protocols (See Page 9, [0122]).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention was made to combine the teaching of Tayebi with Yamauchi reference by storing content on storage devices based on network protocols because both references are directed to content distribution where Yamauchi utilizes different networks for user, content distribution and content management wherein network types are different and device must store pre-determined content while Tayebi teaches devices connected to network in accordance with network protocols for effectively

distribution of content on a secure, reliable and trustworthy network link, and the combined teaching of the references would have enabled Yamauchi's system to increase transmission capability on a more secure, reliable and trustworthy network link (See BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION of the references).

The combined teaching of the Tayebi and Yamauchi references further teaches the teaches the following:

"outputting each of the collected content information items in a standardized form" (See Yamauchi: Pages 5-7, [0068] and [0089] where content of MPEG 2 format is converted into MPEG4 format and both content formats are for displaying on television output device and the content receiving section receives contents and monitors content on monitor screen).

As per claim 9, Yamauchi teaches "A content information management apparatus in which a plurality of devices" which are "connected via networks" (See Fig. 3 and Pages 4-6 wherein [0066] shows content storing section stores content and wherein [0071] content recording management section identifies content types and transmits content to the network-connected terminal devices where the content should be stored),

Yamauchi does not explicitly teach that the storage devices connected to networks "using different protocols".

However, Tayebi teaches storage devices connected together in accordance with known network protocols (See Page 9, [0122]).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention was made to combine the teaching of Tayebi with Yamauchi reference by storing content on storage devices based on network protocols because both references are directed to content distribution where Yamauchi utilizes different networks for user, content distribution and content management wherein network types are different and device must store pre-determined content while Tayebi teaches devices connected to network in accordance with network protocols for effectively distribution of content on a secure, reliable and trustworthy network link, and the combined teaching of the references would have enabled Yamauchi's system to increase transmission capability on a more secure, reliable and trustworthy network link (See BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION of the references).

The combined teaching of the Tayebi and Yamauchi references further teaches the following:

"an inquiry receiving unit which receives from an arbitrary one of the plurality of devices an inquiry relating to content information held in another one of the plurality of devices and returns a result of the inquiry" (See Tayebi: Page 11, [0162] where user interface is available for user to inquire content types and other attributes, and Yamauchi: Pages 6-7, [0089] where user monitors content being received by the content receiving section from content distribution device); and

"an inquiry processing unit which acquires content information items held in the plurality of devices based on inquiry protocols of the respective devices" (See Tayebi: Page 11, [0162] and Page 9, [0122] where user interface is available for user to inquire content

types and other attributes and content stored in storage devices connected together in accordance with known network protocols, and Yamauchi: Pages 6-7, [0089] where user monitors content being received by the content receiving section from content distribution device), "converts the content information items into a standardized form and holds the converted content information, retrieves the converted content information according to the inquiry received by the inquiry receiving unit and returns a result which satisfies a condition to the inquiry receiving unit as an inquiry response" (See Yamauchi: Page 5, [0068] where content is converted from one format to another for storage, and Tayebi: Page 11, [0162], Page 9, [0122] and Page 11, [0146] where user interface is available for user to inquire content types and other attributes and received content as requested).

As per claim 15, Yamauchi teaches "A content information management method applied to a content information management apparatus in which a plurality of devices" are "connected via networks" (See Fig. 3 and Pages 4-6 wherein [0066] shows content storing section stores content and wherein [0071] content recording management section identifies content types and transmits content to the network-connected terminal devices where the content should be stored).

Yamauchi does not explicitly teach that the storage devices connected to networks "using different protocols".

However, Tayebi teaches storage devices connected together in accordance with known network protocols (See Page 9, [0122]).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention was made to combine the teaching of Tayebi with Yamauchi reference by storing content on storage devices based on network protocols because both references are directed to content distribution where Yamauchi utilizes different networks for user, content distribution and content management wherein network types are different and device must store pre-determined content while Tayebi teaches devices connected to network in accordance with network protocols for effectively distribution of content on a secure, reliable and trustworthy network link, and the combined teaching of the references would have enabled Yamauchi's system to increase transmission capability on a more secure, reliable and trustworthy network link (See BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION of the references).

The combined teaching of the Tayebi and Yamauchi references further teaches the following:

"receiving from an arbitrary one of the plurality of devices an inquiry relating to content information held in another one of the plurality of devices" (See Tayebi: Page 11, [0162] where user interface is available for user to inquire content types and other attributes, and Yamauchi: Pages 6-7, [0089] where user monitors content being received by the content receiving section from content distribution device);

"acquiring content information items held in the plurality of devices based on inquiry protocols of the respective devices, converting the content information items into a standardized form, storing the converted content information, retrieving the converted content information according to the received inquiry" (See Tayebi: Page 11, [0162] and

Page 9, [0122] where user interface is available for user to inquire content types and other attributes and content stored in storage devices connected together in accordance with known network protocols, and Yamauchi: Pages 5-7, [0068] and [0089] where user monitors content being received by the content receiving section from content distribution device and content is converted from one format to another for storage);

"acquiring a result among the converted content information" (See Tayebi: Page 11, [0162], Page 9, [0122] and Page 11, [0146] where user interface is available for user to inquire content types and other attributes and received content as requested); and "transmitting the acquired result to the arbitrary one of the plurality of devices" (See Yamauchi: Page 1, [0017] where content is transmitted and received between terminal device that has made the request).

As per claim 13, Yamauchi teaches "A content information management apparatus in which a first device and at least one second device which holds content information being not accessible from the first device are connected via networks" (See Abstract and Fig. 1 where the content stored in the network-connected first terminal device is transmitted and received by the network-connected second terminal device shows the content stored in the first terminal device is not accessible to the second terminal device without transmitting and receiving steps), comprising:

"a communicating unit capable of performing communication with the first device and the at least one second device, an inquiry receiving unit which receives an inquiry

relating to content information of the at least one second device from the first device via the communicating unit and returns a result of the inquiry" (See Pages 5-6, [0075] where a management section responds to request for content by sending the address of the terminal device which has the content stored to the requesting device for further retrieving the content via network); and

"at least one inquiry processing unit which is provided for the at least one second device and processes the inquiry received by the inquiry receiving unit, wherein the inquiry receiving unit selects one of the at least one inquiry processing unit according to the inquiry, leaves an inquiry process up to the selected inquiry processing unit, waits for a processing result of the selected inquiry processing unit, receives the processing result and notifies the first device of the processing result as an inquiry result via the communicating unit" (See Pages 5-6, [0075] where a management section responds to request for content by sending the address of the terminal device which has the content stored to the requesting device for further retrieving the content via network), and "the selected inquiry processing unit includes: (1) a detection processing unit which detects the second device on a network" " ... "when the inquiry is received" (See Pages 5-6, [0075] where a management section responds to request for content by sending the address of the terminal device which has the content stored to the requesting device for further retrieving the content via network).

Yamauchi does not explicitly teach that the detection processing unit is "capable of being inquired by use of an inquiry protocol of the second device in advance", although

Yamauchi teaches a management section identifying the address of terminal device having the content being requested at Pages 5-6, [0075].

However, Tayebi teaches storage devices connected together in accordance with known network protocols (See Page 9, [0122]).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention was made to combine the teaching of Tayebi with Yamauchi reference by storing content on storage devices based on network protocols because both references are directed to content distribution where Yamauchi utilizes different networks for user, content distribution and content management wherein network types are different and device must store pre-determined content while Tayebi teaches devices connected to network in accordance with network protocols for effectively distribution of content on a secure, reliable and trustworthy network link, and the combined teaching of the references would have enabled Yamauchi's system to increase transmission capability on a more secure, reliable and trustworthy network link (See BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION of the references).

The combined teaching of the Tayebi and Yamauchi references further teaches the following:

"(2) a searching unit which:

(a) acquires content information held in the second device detected by the detection processing unit based on the inquiry protocol of the second device" (See Yamauchi: Pages 5-6, [0075] where a management section responds to request for content by sending the address of the terminal device which has the content stored to

the requesting device for further retrieving the content via network, and Tayebi: Page 9, [0122] where storage devices connected together in accordance with known network protocols),

“(b) converts the content information into a standardized form and” (See Yamauchi: Page 5, [0068] where content is converted from one format to another for storage),

“(c) holds the converted content information” (See Yamauchi: Pages 5-6, [0075] where a management section responds to request for content by sending the address of the terminal device which has the content stored to the requesting device for further retrieving the content via network while the device having content stored holds the content), and

(3) the selected inquiry processing unit retrieves the converted content information acquired by and held in the searching unit according to the inquiry and a property of the second device and returns a result which satisfies a condition to the inquiry receiving unit as an inquiry response” (See Yamauchi: Pages 5-6, [0075] where a management section responds to request for content by sending the address of the terminal device which has the content stored to the requesting device for further retrieving the content via network while the device having content stored holds the content).

As per claim 19, Yamauchi teaches “A content information management method applied to a content information management apparatus in which a first device and at least one second device which holds content information being not accessible from the

first device are connected via networks” (See Abstract and Fig. 1 where the content stored in the network-connected first terminal device is transmitted and received by the network-connected second terminal device shows the content stored in the first terminal device is not accessible to the second terminal device without transmitting and receiving steps), comprising:

“receiving an inquiry relating to content information of the at least one second device from the first device via a communication medium” (See Pages 5-6, [0075] where a management section responds to request for content by sending the address of the terminal device which has the content stored to the requesting device for further retrieving the content via network), and

“detecting the at least one second device on a network” ... “when the inquiry is received” (See Pages 5-6, [0075] where a management section responds to request for content by sending the address of the terminal device which has the content stored to the requesting device for further retrieving the content via network).

Yamauchi does not explicitly teach that the detection processing unit is “capable of being inquired by use of an inquiry protocol of the second device in advance or when an inquiry is received”, although Yamauchi teaches a management section identifying the address of terminal device having the content being requested at Pages 5-6, [0075].

However, Tayebi teaches storage devices connected together in accordance with known network protocols (See Page 9, [0122]).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention was made to combine the teaching of Tayebi with Yamauchi

reference by storing content on storage devices based on network protocols because both references are directed to content distribution where Yamauchi utilizes different networks for user, content distribution and content management wherein network types are different and device must store pre-determined content while Tayebi teaches devices connected to network in accordance with network protocols for effectively distribution of content on a secure, reliable and trustworthy network link, and the combined teaching of the references would have enabled Yamauchi's system to increase transmission capability on a more secure, reliable and trustworthy network link (See BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION of the references).

The combined teaching of the Tayebi and Yamauchi references further teaches the following:

"acquiring content information held in the detected at least one second device based on the inquiry protocol of the at least one second device" (See Yamauchi: Pages 5-6, [0075] where a management section responds to request for content by sending the address of the terminal device which has the content stored to the requesting device for further retrieving the content via network and Tayebi: Page 9, [0122] where storage devices connected together in accordance with known network protocols),

"converting the acquired content information into a standardized form content information and storing the same" (See Yamauchi: Page 5, [0068] where content is converted from one format to another for storage), and

retrieving the stored standardized content information according to the inquiry and a property of the second device and returning a result which satisfies a condition to the

first device as an inquiry response" (See Yamauchi: Pages 5-6, [0075] where a management section responds to request for content by sending the address of the terminal device which has the content stored to the requesting device for further retrieving the content via network while the device having content stored holds the content).

As per claim 2, the combined teaching of the Tayebi and Yamauchi references teaches "the conversion processing unit includes a plurality of conversion processors which are provided according to types of the networks to be connected" (See Yamauchi: Page 5, [0068] and Page 7, [0101] where computer system includes processing machines and processing systems, and content is converted from one format to another for storage, and Tayebi: Page 9, [0122] where storage devices connected together in accordance with known network protocols).

As per claim 3, the combined teaching of the Tayebi and Yamauchi references teaches "collection processing unit comprises a plurality of collection processors which collect said content information items from the storage devices connected to corresponding ones of the networks" (See Yamauchi: Page 5, [0068] and Page 7, [0101] where computer system includes processing machines and processing systems and at Fig. 3 and Pages 4-6 wherein [0066] shows content storing section stores content and wherein [0071] content recording management section identifies content

types and transmits content to the network-connected terminal devices where the content should be stored).

As per claim 4, the combined teaching of the Tayebi and Yamauchi references teaches "an information creating unit which creates information by unifying content information items of each standardized form output from each of the plurality of collection processors" (See Yamauchi: Page 5, [0068] and Page 7, [0101] where computer system includes processing machines and processing systems and at Fig. 3 and Pages 4-6 where [0066] shows content storing section stores content and at Page 8, [0103] where content is bit-separated into sub-contents and stored to different terminal devices and recovered as original at a storage section).

As per claim 6, the combined teaching of the Tayebi and Yamauchi references teaches "creating a play list based on the collected content information items and displaying the play list" (See Tayebi: Pages 4-5, [0049] and [0070] where content distribution system offering, displaying and distributing content that provides adequate and relevant exposure to the published content).

As per claim 7, the combined teaching of the Tayebi and Yamauchi references teaches "sequentially reproducing and outputting individual content indicated on the display of the play list from a corresponding one of the storage devices" (See Yamauchi: [0095] where content is sequentially stored based on reproduction timing and

sequentially retrieved from terminal devices for reproduction, and Tayebi: Pages 4-5, [0049] and [0070] where content distribution system offering, displaying and distributing content that provides adequate and relevant exposure to the published content).

As per claim 8, the combined teaching of the Tayebi and Yamauchi references teaches "converting control information from a certain device into control information which is capable of being dealt with in the standardized form, and performing a process corresponding to the converted control information" (See Yamauchi: [0095] Fig. 3 and Pages 4-6, [0066] and [0071] where management section transmitting and receiving content for sequentially storage based on reproduction timing and sequentially retrieval from terminal devices for reproduction, and, content storing section where content recording management section identifies content types and transmits content to the network-connected terminal devices where the content should be stored).

As per claim 10, the combined teaching of the Tayebi and Yamauchi references teaches "the inquiry processing unit acquires an inquiry result by making an inquiry by use of an inquiry protocol of a targeted device via a network" (See Yamauchi: Pages 5-6, [0071] and [0075] where a management section responds to request for content by sending the address of the terminal device which has the content stored to the requesting device for further retrieving the content via network and content storing section where content recording management section identifies content types and

transmits content to the network-connected terminal devices where the content should be stored).

As per claim 11, the combined teaching of the Tayebi and Yamauchi references teaches "the inquiry processing unit creates a reproduction list of contents held in each device in a standardized form based on the converted content information and returns the reproduction list as an inquiry response to the inquiry receiving unit when receives from one of the plurality of devices a display request for a reproduction list of contents held in another ones of the plurality of devices" (See Yamauchi: [0095] the content recording management system wherein content is sequentially stored based on reproduction timing and sequentially retrieved from terminal devices for reproduction, and Tayebi: Pages 4-5, [0049] and [0070] where content distribution system offering, displaying and distributing content that provides adequate and relevant exposure to the published content).

As per claim 12, the combined teaching of the Tayebi and Yamauchi references teaches "a reproducing unit which is capable of sequentially acquiring contents described in the reproduction list from the corresponding devices and output the acquired contents to the arbitrary one of the plurality of devices" (See Yamauchi: [0095] the content recording management system wherein content is sequentially stored based on reproduction timing and sequentially retrieved from terminal devices for reproduction, and Tayebi: Pages 4-5, [0049] and [0070] where content distribution system offering,

displaying and distributing content that provides adequate and relevant exposure to the published content).

As per claim 14, the combined teaching of the Tayebi and Yamauchi references teaches "the inquiry processing unit acquires an inquiry result by making an inquiry with respect to the second device detected by the device detection processing unit based on the inquiry protocol of the second device" (See Yamauchi: Pages 5-6, [0071] and [0075] where a management section responds to request for content by sending the address of the terminal device which has the content stored to the requesting device for further retrieving the content via network and content storing section where content recording management section identifies content types and transmits content to the network-connected terminal devices where the content should be stored).

As per claim 16, the combined teaching of the Tayebi and Yamauchi references teaches "acquiring the result includes acquiring an inquiry result by making an inquiry by use of an inquiry protocol of a targeted device via a network" (See Yamauchi: Pages 5-6, [0071] and [0075] where a management section responds to request for content by sending the address of the terminal device which has the content stored to the requesting device for further retrieving the content via network and content storing section where content recording management section identifies content types and transmits content to the network-connected terminal devices where the content should be stored).

As per claim 17, the combined teaching of the Tayebi and Yamauchi references teaches "acquiring said result includes creating a reproduction list of contents held in each device in a standardized form based on the converted content information and returning the reproduction list as an inquiry response to the arbitrary one of the plurality of devices, when said arbitrary one of the plurality of devices issues a display request for a reproduction list of contents held in another ones of the plurality of devices" (See Yamauchi: [0095] the content recording management system wherein content is sequentially stored based on reproduction timing and sequentially retrieved from terminal devices for reproduction, and Tayebi: Pages 4-5, [0049] and [0070] where content distribution system offering, displaying and distributing content that provides adequate and relevant exposure to the published content).

As per claim 18, the combined teaching of the Tayebi and Yamauchi references teaches "sequentially acquiring contents described in the reproduction list from the corresponding devices and output the acquired contents to the arbitrary one of the plurality of devices" (See Yamauchi: [0095] the content recording management system wherein content is sequentially stored based on reproduction timing and sequentially retrieved from terminal devices for reproduction, and Tayebi: Pages 4-5, [0049] and [0070] where content distribution system offering, displaying and distributing content that provides adequate and relevant exposure to the published content).

As per claim 20, the combined teaching of the Tayebi and Yamauchi references teaches "acquiring an inquiry result by making an inquiry with respect to the detected at least one second device based on the inquiry protocol of the at least one second device" (See Yamauchi: Pages 5-6, [0071] and [0075] where a management section responds to request for content by sending the address of the terminal device which has the content stored to the requesting device for further retrieving the content via network and content storing section where content recording management section identifies content types and transmits content to the network-connected terminal devices where the content should be stored).

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record

A. U.S. Patent Application 2003/0154390

B. U.S. Patent Application 2003/0163724

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

C. U.S. Patent Application 2002/0083201

D. U.S. Patent No. 7,047,285

E. U.S. Patent Application 2003/0097399

F. U.S. Patent No. 6,182,084

Response to Arguments

5. As to Applicant's Arguments, filed on November 3, 2006, has been fully considered, please see discussion below:

At pages 8-10, Applicant argued that the cited Yamauchi reference does not teach Applicant's "collection processing unit", "conversion processing unit" and "output unit".

Examiner respectfully submits that Yamauchi reference does provide the above units, please refer to Figs. 2-3 where content storing device comprising of reading/writing sections and storage medium is a collection processing unit, a converting section is a conversion processing unit, and terminal devices are output units. Please note the reference does or does not specifically use the term "processing unit", however, the terms "section" and "device" for performing the functions as respectively described in the reference does provide processing functionality as the term of "processing unit". As a side note, on the same or similar basis of "its scope within the bounds of the disclosure as originally filed", Examiner does not object to or reject Applicant's claims 2-4 where "processors" in the claims was not specifically described in the specification because specific processing unit was supported by the specification and processing unit comprising of processor(s) is well known in the art. Please see MPEP § 1504.04 [R-5].

Conclusions

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new grounds of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Contact Information

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kuen S. Lu whose telephone number is (571) 272-4114. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:00 am-5:00 pm). If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's Supervisor, John Cottingham can be reached on (571) 272-7079. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-305-39000.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for Page 13 published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 703-305-3900 (toll-free).


Art Unit: 2167

Kuen S. Lu



Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2167

January 18, 2007



JOHN COTTINGHAM
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100